

210 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE  
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204-4515  
TELEPHONE 410 832-2000  
FAX 410 832-2015

WHITEFORD, TAYLOR & PRESTON  
L.L.P.

SEVEN SAINT PAUL STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-1626

410 347-8700  
DIRECT FAX 410-234-2324  
www.wtplaw.com

1FW 3626  
1025 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036-5405  
TELEPHONE 202 659-6800  
FAX 202 331-0573

115 ORONOCO STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314-1685  
TELEPHONE 703 836-5742  
FAX 703 836-3558

20 COLUMBIA CORPORATE CENTER  
10420 LITTLE PATUXENT PARKWAY, SUITE 495  
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND 21044-3528  
TELEPHONE 410 884-0700  
FAX 410 884-0719



JEFFREY C. MAYNARD  
DIRECT NUMBER  
410-347-9496  
jmaynard@wtplaw.com

January 8, 2007

Mail Stop: AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Re: U.S. Application Serial No.: 09/267,176 of Michael C. BURKE et al.  
entitled "METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A UTILITY  
PROCESSING SYSTEM"; filed: March 12, 1999  
Our Docket No.: 010807/00014**

Honorable Commissioner:

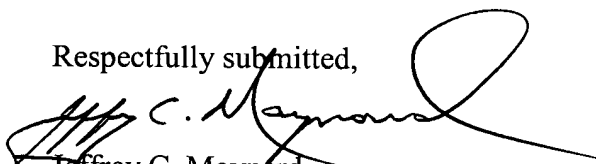
Enclosed please find the following:

1. Amendment/Response to the Official Action dated October 6, 2006 (10 pages total).
2. Our post card. Please date stamp and return.

In the event that Applicant has overlooked the need for any petition for an extension of time to file the enclosed papers, petition is hereby made to extend the current due date so as to cover the filing date of this paper and attachment(s).

No additional claims fee is believed to be required. Please charge any unanticipated fees, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No.: 50-1479 (a duplicate copy of this charge authorization is attached).

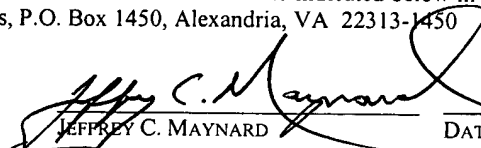
Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeffrey C. Maynard  
Reg. No. 46,208

Enclosures

\* \* \*

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above-referenced documents for Application Serial No. 09/267,176 are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

  
JEFFREY C. MAYNARD  
DATE 1/8/07

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Michael C. BURKE et al. | Examiner: Robert W. Morgan

Application Ser. No.: 09/267,176

Group Art Unit: 3626

Filed: 03/12/1999



For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR A UTILITY PROCESSING  
SYSTEM

010807/00014  
January 8, 2007

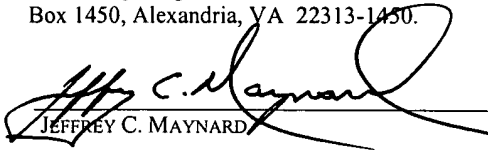
Mail Stop: AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED October 6, 2006**

---

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8)**

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
JEFFREY C. MAYNARD

1/8/07  
DATE

---

Honorable Commissioner:

This amendment is being timely submitted in response to the Examiner's official action mailed 10/06/2006. Please consider the following amendment and remarks.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 11, 13, 14, 18, 44, and 52, as noted on the pages that follow.

Entry of the amendments and consideration of the Remarks that follow is respectfully requested.